



# USDA BROILER MARKET NEWS REPORT

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## NATIONAL BROILER MARKET AT-A-GLANCE



Majority prices were trending slightly higher in the West, unchanged in the Midwest and East when compared to a week earlier. Retail demand was moderate to fairly good for the holiday weekend. Supplies were sufficient to well cleared, with 3 pound and lighter birds in the best position. Availability of truck improved slightly as several plants were scheduled to be closed Monday for the Memorial Holiday. In the parts structure, trading was moderate, but high freight costs, transportation issues, and limited product were items that continue to be discussed. Breast b/s was short to well cleared, dark meat was in good balance, and wings were trying to stabilize. In production areas, live supplies were moderate at irregular but generally desirable weights.

**Preliminary report** of prices negotiated for trucklot sales of ready-to-cook broiler/fryers fob and delivered to first receivers at major market areas week of 5/31/04-06/04/04 (cents per lb)

### US GRADE A

(Including branded product)

AREAS	MAJORITY	RANGE	WTD AVG	LOADS
Delivered to First Receivers				
Chicago	78.00-81.00	73.50-87.00	79.59	30
Los Angeles	83.00			
New York	81.00-84.00			
Southeast Area FOB Dock Equivalent				
Mississippi	77.00-79.00	76.50-85.00	78.88	87

**GEORGIA F.O.B. DOCK PRICES** Georgia f.o.b. dock quoted price on broilers/fryers for this week's trading is 78.00 cents based on ice-packed USDA grade "A" sized 2 1/2 to 3 pound birds.

### PRELIMINARY FOB DOCK OR EQUIVALENT

LOADS	RANGE	FRIDAY PRELIM. WTD. AVG.
961	74.50-80.50	77.92

Georgia f.o.b. dock confirmed preliminary weighted average price on ice packed parts:

ITEM	WTD. AVG. (CENTS PER POUND)	VOLUME (000 POUNDS)
LINE RUN TENDERS	256.50	1,270
BREASTS - B/S	257.00	5,286
BREASTS - WHOLE	135.00	1,788
THIGH MEAT - B/S	122.50	972
LEG QUARTERS	37.50	7,412
WINGS	119.00	2,931

This information is supplied by the Georgia Department of Agriculture's Poultry Market News Service.

**MIDWEST REGION BROILER/FRYERS** Preliminary majority prices for next week's deliveries into the Chicago area were unchanged from Monday's final. Trade sentiment continued steady to firm. Offerings of whole fryers very limited for the light to moderate buyer needs. Movement into all channels was usually noted as expected, fair to very good. Best demand was into catering, scattered holiday retail features and some fast food outlets. Retail features noted on 3# bag boneless/skinless breasts at \$7.99; boneless/skinless breasts at \$2.99; split breasts at \$1.18 and \$1.99; drums and thighs at 99 and 87 cents. Floor stocks were in a full range, but mostly adequate to in very close balance. Weights were desirable. Offerings of wings were fully available with all other items adequate to short. The market tone was fully steady to firm on drums and breast cuts, steady on leg quarters with wings steady to barely steady.

**SOUTHERN BROILER** Trade sentiment was fully steady to steady. Retail demand was moderate to good. Food service was good with reports of very good movement into fast food outlets for the approaches Memorial holiday weekend business. Supplies were balanced to short of full trade needs. In the parts structure, movement was moderate to good. Breast b/s was short with premiums still being reported, wings were improved but still sufficient, dark meat was clearing. In production areas, live supplies were moderate at mixed, but mostly desirable weights.

**WESTERN REGION BROILER/FRYERS** Preliminary majority prices were 1 cent higher compared to last Fridays' levels. Reported trading for next weeks' deliveries at higher prices. Offerings remained in an adequate position to cover needs. Small sized product was in the strongest position. Buyers' contemplated post-holiday interest before committing to anything other than regular needs. Retailer demand was generally good best to cover the three-day Memorial Day weekend. Dealers anticipated fairly good weekend clearances. The market tone was fully steady to firm on breast and leg quarters, weak on wings and about steady on balance of parts.

**NORTHEAST BROILER/FRYERS** Trucklot buying activity on ready-to-cook whole broiler/fryers was moderate to fairly good entering the holiday weekend. Offerings of the 3 pound and lighter birds were clearing with premiums noted. The 3.5 to 4 pound birds were at least sufficient. Retail and distributive draw was at least moderate. The market tone was fully steady. In the parts complex, boneless-skinless breasts were tight and bone-in breasts were closely balanced. Dark meat items were clearing well. Wings were at least adequate.

**DELMARVA BROILER/FRYERS** Movement of ready-to-cook whole birds was moderate to good entering the holiday extended weekend. Seller offerings were adequate to well cleared. Live supplies were moderate; weights were mostly desirable. Processing schedules were heavy when combined with operations slated for Saturday, mainly due to plants closing to observe Memorial Day on Monday. Less than trucklot asking prices were unchanged at 82 to 94 cents. Trade sentiment was at least steady. In the parts complex, supplies were adequate to well cleared. Boneless/skinless breasts were generally noted as tight.

\*BROILER/FRYER CURRENT NEGOTIATED PRICES FOR IMMEDIATE DELIVERY INCLUDES MOSTLY MULTIPLE-DROP SHIPMENTS OF BRANDED AND WING TAGGED TO NEW YORK CITY FROM DELMARVA.

### BRANDED U.S. GRADE A

RANGE	81-97
WEIGHTED AVERAGE	86.12
NO. OF BOXES	8,172
CUMULATIVE 05/24/04-05/28/04	85.96
05/26/03-05/30/03	59.76
NO. OF BOXES 05/24/04-05/28/04	35,984
05/26/03-05/30/03	40,227

\*7 of 7 plants reporting.

MAY 27

**SOUTHERN STATES BROILER/FRYER PARTS**

MAY 28

ITEM	POUNDS		WTD		POUNDS		WTD		WEEKLY	
	(000)	RANGE	MAJORITY	AVG	(000)	RANGE	MAJORITY	WTD AVG	(000)	WTD AVG
BREAST - B/S	772	245.00-326.00	246-250	249.00	884	242.00-326.00	246-252	250.89	4,796	251.19
TENDERLOINS	133	225.00-280.00	225-229	235.14	219	225.00-280.00	225-230	230.21	1,033	230.57
BREAST - LINE RUN	98	130.00-139.00	130-132	133.07	97	132.00-140.00	132-135	135.26	505	132.92
FRONT HALVES	TOO FEW TO REPORT				TOO FEW TO REPORT				330	124.24
LEGS	66	48.00-60.00	50-51	51.37	63	50.00-60.00	50-51	51.90	346	51.17
LEG QUARTERS (BULK)	684	33.00-38.00	36-37	36.66	472	33.00-39.00	36-37	36.61	2,739	36.61
LEG QUARTERS (4/10)	1,120	38.00-42.00	38-39	38.84	1,300	38.00-42.00	39	38.97	5,630	38.78
WINGS (WHOLE)	297	94.00-125.00	94-97	98.16	295	94.00-104.00	95-97	98.07	1,550	98.83
WINGS (CUT)	636	95.00-119.00	114-118	114.54	623	108.00-119.00	117-119	116.53	3,259	115.16
DRUMSTICKS	TOO FEW TO REPORT				TOO FEW TO REPORT				TFEWR	
THIGHS	TOO FEW TO REPORT				TOO FEW TO REPORT				140	55.71
B/S THIGHS	105	115.00-134.00	-	122.62	125	112.00-134.00	-	120.32	640	119.78
*****										
WHOLE BODY INDEX BASED ON SOUTHERN STATES PARTS										
TRADING FOR MAY 27, 2004 F.O.B. DOCK.										

**RANGE****TODAY'S AVERAGE**

76.00 - 82.50

80.50

**RANGE****TODAY'S AVERAGE****5-DAY AVERAGE**

76.00-82.50

80.03

80.36

The Index is intended solely as an indicator of values for commodity-type product and does not represent industry's willingness to sell or ability to buy.

**NORTHEAST BROILER/FRYER PARTS** - Trucklot buying interest was moderate entering the holiday weekend. Offerings of boneless-skinless breasts were tight and bone-in breast were closely cleared. Dark meat items ranged adequate to balanced. Wings were at least sufficient. Retail and distributive draw was at least moderate. The market tone was fully steady.

ICE PACKED B/F PARTS, DLVRD TO FIRST RECEIVERS IN POOL TRUCKLOT AND TRUCKLOT QUANTITIES, CENTS PER LB.

ITEM	CURRENT NEG		WTD		CURRENT NEG		WTD		WEEKLY	
	TRADING*	AVG**	VOL/LBS		TRADING*	AVG**	VOL/LBS	WTD AVG	VOL/LBS	
BREAST - B/S	250-255	242.27	623,709		250-255	243.97	788,747	241.96	3,069,293	
TENDERLOINS	225	221.57	163,400		225	221.26	153,360	217.14	692,090	
BREAST - WITH RIBS	132-133	137.70	149,520		132-133	137.72	190,360	137.30	727,880	
BREAST - LINE RUN	132	134.34	103,120		132	134.91	129,920	134.25	635,520	
LEGS	53-54	49.92	336,279		53-54	51.90	327,920	51.18	1,479,207	
LEG QUARTERS (BULK)	40-41	41.71	323,890		40-41	40.29	295,798	39.72	1,773,651	
DRUMSTICKS	42-43	48.89	153,024		42-43	52.24	159,183	48.14	690,418	
THIGHS	45-46	51.59	121,309		45-46	52.07	93,344	51.49	601,825	
B/S THIGHS	116-117	118.39	80,920		116-117	118.64	89,480	118.07	396,440	
WINGS (WHOLE)	100-101	111.30	113,240		100-101	105.84	177,720	105.81	734,546	
BACKS AND NECKS (STRIPPED)	10-12	12.00	36,760		10-12	12.02	37,000	11.99	175,040	
LIVERS (5 POUND TUBS)	35-40	28.22	15,320		35-40	28.64	12,650	28.44	69,415	
GIZZARDS (HEARTS)	55-60	56.89	16,760		55-60	56.93	24,000	58.26	100,400	

INCLUDES: NY CITY METRO. AREA, RI, NORTHERN NJ, MA, CT, PA (NORTHEAST OF HARRISBURG). \* TODAY'S NEG. SALES AS OF 11:30 A.M.

\*\* WTD AVG PRICE OF ALL GRADES AND BRANDS OF PRODUCT SHIPPE, OR TO BE SHIPPED AS OF 1:30 P.M.

**ESTIMATED SLAUGHTER OF BROILER-FRYERS (IN THOUSANDS)**

	ESTIMATED		ACTUAL		AVG WT		ACTUAL		AVG WTS	
	(1,000)		(1,000)				(1,000)			
ALA	4,897	3,962	3,839	3,731	5.16	5.23	4,305	5.16		
ARK	5,626	5,338	5,404	5,447	4.90	5.05	5,149	5.00		
DELMARVA	2,648	2,249	2,093	2,197	5.51	5.58	2,397	5.56		
KY-LA-TN	2,780	2,033	2,006	2,004	4.98	4.97	1,669	4.79		
MISS	3,184	3,038	2,684	3,037	5.48	5.49	2,789	5.43		
NC	3,035	2,475	2,427	2,433	6.28	6.27	2,676	6.38		
TEXAS	2,419	2,434	2,494	2,499	5.09	5.18	2,398	5.22		
TOTAL	24,589	21,529	20,947	21,348	5.27	5.35	21,383	5.31		
MON-FRI	110,824(A)						106,135(A)			

(A) Weekly cumulative for states listed above.

Broiler-fryer slaughter under federal inspection for 28-May-04 and 29-May-04 is estimated to be 36,788,000 head up 14.65 percent from a week ago and up 10.37 percent from a year ago.

(Last week 32,087,000, last year 33,333,000)

Weekly broiler-fryer slaughter under federal inspection for the weekending 29-May-04 is estimated to be 160,752,000 head up 0.54 percent from a week ago, and up 13.43 percent from a year ago.

(Last week 159,896,000, last year 141,722,000)

**SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA (L.A. AREA) PROCESSED POULTRY, DELIVERED TO RETAILERS**

	RANGE
FRESH FRYERS	95-97
ROASTERS 4# & UP	95-105
HENS UNDER 5#	
HENS OVER 5#	71-81
DUCKS	
RABBITS-WHOLE	
RABBITS-CUT UP	

**SAN FRANCISCO PROCESSED POULTRY DELIVERED TO RESTAURANTS AND INSTITUTIONS**

	RANGE
FRESH FRYERS	108-116
ROASTERS 4# & UP	108
HENS OVER 5#	108
	93
	93-95

**YOUNG CHICKENS SLAUGHTERED** Under federal inspection, classified by live wt., week ending 15-May-04 (Preliminary),

(A) Fast food/ (B) Retail (C) Deboning  
Food service  
4.20 Lbs & down 4.21-5.25 Lbs 5.26 Lbs & Up

	THOUSANDS		
Head	26,923	20,134	49,612
Avg Weight	3.64	4.68	6.33
% of total /1	28%	21%	51%

## COMPARISONS

Last week	28,848	22,792	53,122
Avg Weight	3.72	4.73	6.38
% of total /1	28%	22%	51%

Same week, yr ago /2	30,155	22,403	52,665
Avg Weight	3.78	4.81	6.06
% of total /1	29%	21%	50%

To date/2004	499,811	415,840	856,944
To date/2003	472,371	444,369	839,449

/1 May not total to 100% due to rounding. /2 Comparable week.

(A) This weight class generally denotes chickens marketed in the fast food and food service industries. May also include cornish hens.

(B) This weight class generally denotes chickens marketed in the retail industry.

(C) This weight class generally denotes chickens used in further processing. May also include heavy roasters sold in retail channels.

**LIVE POULTRY SLTRD UNDER FEDERAL INSPECTION** W/E 22-May-04 (PRELIMINARY)

	YOUNG CHICKENS	LIGHT HENS	HEAVY HENS	TOTAL HENS	DUCKS
THOUSANDS					
HEAD	159,896	1,472	1,365	2,837	489
AVG WT	5.20	3.31	8.10	5.61	6.80
LAST WEEK	158,470	1,410	1,214	2,624	408
SAME WK YR AGO	159,049	1,624	1,463	3,087	470
AVG WT	5.01	3.45	8.26	5.73	6.85
TO-DATE/2004	3,086,458	26,267	25,538	51,805	9,183
TO-DATE/2003	3,041,064	34,140	26,709	60,849	8,504

(A) The estimated number of fryers available for marketing based on the 2-week revised average chick placements 6 to 7 weeks earlier was 162.3 million head. Estimated U.S. slaughter for this period was 161.8 million head or 0.5 which was 100% of estimated fryers available.

**GRAYSTONE SMALL ANIMAL AUCTION -** MAY 25, 2004

PRICES PAID PER POUND, EXCEPT AS NOTED

\*\*AI PAPERS REQUIRED TO SELL ALL OUT OF STATE POULTRY\*\*

	RANGE		RANGE
Muscovy Ducks - Drakes	1.20 - 1.30	Silkie	4.00 - 5.00 ea.
Muscovy Ducks - Hens	1.20 - 1.30	Pigeons	2.75 - 3.25 ea.
Pekin Ducks	-3.50 ea.	White Pigeons	4.75 - 5.50 ea.
Red Fowl 4-5	.40 - .50	Rabbits 4-6	1.20 - 1.30
Red Fowl 5-6	.50 - .90	Rabbits 6-9	1.10 - 1.20
Crossbred Fowl 5-9	.75 - .90	Bunnies	1.00 - 4.00 ea.
Crossbred Roosters 4-6	1.25 - 1.35	Guinea Pigs	3.00 - 4.50 ea.
Guinea Fowl	1.90 - 2.30ea.	Goats	45.00 - 50.00 ea.
Banty Roosters	3.75 - 5.00ea.	Kid Goats	30.00 - 35.00 ea.
Banty Hens	2.50 - 3.00ea.	Doves	3.00 - 4.00 ea.
Leghorn Hens	.30 - .35		

Total Coops Sold 476

**EASTERN REGION MISCELLANEOUS POULTRY**

FOR DELIVERY THE WEEK OF 24-MAY-2004

**DUCKLINGS:** PRICES NEGOTIATED BY FIRST RECEIVERS, US GRADE A, 4-5 POUNDS, DELIVERED IN TRUCKLOT AND POOL TRUCKLOT QUANTITIES, CENTS PER POUND

ORIGIN	FROZEN	FRESH
LONG ISLAND	137-140	144-146
MOSTLY		
MIDWEST	124-128	125-130
MOSTLY		

**ROASTERS:** PRICES NEGOTIATED BY FIRST RECEIVERS, US GRADE A AND PLANT GRADE, 5 POUNDS AND UP, DELIVERED CENTS PER POUND

	RANGE	MOSTLY
ICE PACKED (12 PER BOX)	83.00-90.50	88.00-90.00
VACUUM PACKED (6-9 PER BOX)	63.00-86.50	68.00-76.50

**SQUABS:** NEW YORK AREA WHOLESALE PRICES, FROZEN, PLANT GRADE, DOLLARS PER DOZEN, 1 TO 10 BOXES

12 OZ.	60.48-71.28
14 OZ.	66.96-77.92
16 OZ.	73.44-86.67

THE EASTERN REGION INCLUDES:

CT,DE,FL,GA,MA,MD,ME,NC,NH,NJ,NY,PA RI,SC,VA,VT,WV

**CENTRAL REGION DUCKLINGS** Prices were mostly unchanged to slightly higher for fresh whole birds in less than trucklot quantities. Trade sentiment was steady to fully steady. Demand was fairly good. Schedules full-time. Weights were in the desirable range. Prices paid to first receivers for 10-18oz boneless breast at \$4.25-5.25, bone in legs at \$1.35-1.45, gizzards at \$1.35-1.40, wings at \$0.30-0.50, livers at \$0.75-1.70, and feet at \$0.80-1.15.

PRICES NEGOTIATED BY FIRST RECEIVERS FOR US GRADE A DELIVERED IN TRUCKLOT AND POOL TRUCKLOT QUANTITIES, 4-5 POUNDS, CENTS PER POUND, WEEK OF 24-MAY-2004

ORIGIN	FROZEN	FRESH
MIDWEST AND OTHERS	116-134	118-139

**ESTIMATED U.S. SLAUGHTER COMPARED TO ESTIMATED FRYERS AVAILABLE FOR MARKETING.**

WEEK ENDING	MILLION HEAD SLAUGHTERED	MILLION HEAD AVAILABLE	PCT	AVG WT
APRIL 17	154.0	158.8	97%	5.26
24	157.9	159.9	99%	5.20
MAY 1	159.8	161.1	99%	5.30
8	159.0	161.9	98%	5.33
15	160.4	162.6	99%	5.24
22	161.8	162.3	100%	5.20
YEAR TO DATE	3,124.0	3,166.2	99%	
MAY 29		162.3		
JUNE 5		163.1		

**BROILER/CATTLE/HOG WEEKLY ESTIMATED SLAUGHTER**

Under Federal Inspection

	THOUSANDS				
W/E	05/29/04	05/22/04	% CHG	05/31/03	% CHG
Broilers	160,752	159,896	+54%	141,722	+13.43%
Cattle	699	693	+01%	661	+06%
Hogs	1,877	1,895	-01%	1,513	+02%

\*ACTUAL

**NATIONAL CANNER FOWL MARKET** Sales were too few to report on heavy canners. Light canners were generally unchanged when compared to a week earlier. Demand was at least moderate for lights; mostly fair for heavies with very limited supplies. Offerings of light canners were sufficient. Processing schedules were normal to less than normal. Trade sentiment was at least steady.

CENTS PER POUND, CURRENT NEGOTIATIONS, WITHOUT FREIGHT COST

<b>LIGHT CANNER HENS</b>	<b>HEAVY CANNER HENS</b>
<b>(LINE RUN WITHOUT NECKS)</b>	<b>(WITHOUT NECKS)</b>
25.5-32 MAJORITY 26.5-28	TOO FEW TO REPORT

CENTS PER POUND, CURRENT NEGOTIATIONS, FREIGHT COST INCLUDED

<b>LIGHT CANNER HENS</b>	<b>HEAVY CANNER HENS</b>
<b>(LINE RUN WITHOUT NECKS)</b>	<b>(WITHOUT NECKS)</b>
27-33 MAJORITY 29-29.5	TOO FEW TO REPORT

#### **LIGHT TYPE HENS**

CENTS PER HEAD, GENERALLY FOR REMOVAL WITHIN THE NEXT 10 DAYS (INCLUDES HANDLING, FREIGHT AND ANY OTHER CHARGES, WEIGHTS AVERAGE ABOUT 3.50 POUNDS)

**EASTERN REGION LIGHT LIVE HEN** Majority prices were unchanged when compared to a week earlier. Demand was moderate to at least moderate. Offerings of spent hens were at least adequate for trade needs. Processing schedules normal. Opinions on removal cost were steady.

	<b>RANGE</b>	<b>MAJORITY</b>
REMOVAL COST	0-12	8.5 -10.5

**SOUTH CENTRAL LIGHT LIVE HEN** Trading was too few to report. Demand was moderate for spent hens. Schedules were reduced. Finished sales were slow. Disposal costs were expected to be at least steady.

	<b>RANGE</b>	<b>MAJORITY</b>
REMOVAL COST	TOO FEW TO REPORT	

**NORTH CENTRAL LIGHT LIVE HEN** Prices ranged unchanged to higher. Demand was fairly good to good with offerings fully adequate. Schedules reduced for next week. Trade sentiment steady.

	<b>RANGE</b>	<b>MAJORITY</b>
REMOVAL COST	5-10.5	5-6

#### **HEAVY TYPE HENS (7 POUNDS AND UP) \***

PRELIMINARY PRICE, CENTS PER LB., GENERALLY FOR SLAUGHTER THE WEEK OF 31-MAY-04

**SOUTHEAST HEAVY LIVE HEN** Sales were too few to report prices. Demand was moderate for adequate to about adequate offerings. Processing schedules for next week were less than normal. Supplies of finished product were clearing satisfactorily. The undertone was at least steady.

#### **RANGE**

AT FARM BUYER LOADING  
AT FARM PRODUCER LOADING  
FOB PLANT

#### **MAJORITY**

TOO FEW TO REPORT  
TOO FEW TO REPORT  
TOO FEW TO REPORT

**SOUTH CENTRAL LIVE HEAVY-TYPE HENS** Sales were too few to report. Demand was light for adequate offerings. Schedules were reduced. Finished sales were fair. Trade sentiment was at least steady.

#### **RANGE MAJORITY**

AT FARM BUYER LOADING TOO FEW TO REPORT

\* WEIGHTS UNDER 7 LBS. SUBJECT TO DISCOUNT.

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**WEST COAST LIGHT LIVE HEN** Plant schedules mainly moderate. Offerings adequate.